

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are the pending claims in the present application. Applicants cancel, without prejudice, claims 7 and 11-14. Applicants add new claim 16. Support for the subject matter of this claim can be found throughout the specification. Explicit support for claim 16 can be found, for example, on page 9, lines 17-21. No new matter has been entered. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Issues raised by the Examiner will be addressed below in the order they appeared in the previous Advisory Action.

1. Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of US Patent No. 6,207,718. Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer, if necessary, upon indication of allowable subject matter.

4. Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Pepinsky et al. in view of Easton et al., and further in view of Usala et al. Applicants traverse this rejection, and furthermore Applicants contend that the rejection is moot in light of the amended claims.

Applicants maintain the arguments of record with respect to the combination of references which the Examiner alleges undermine the patentability of the claimed invention. Briefly, Applicants contend that the combination of references cited by the Examiner fail to disclose the particular combination of elements presently claimed. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of claims directed to commercially relevant embodiments of Applicants' invention, Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out the nature of the buffer for use in the presently claimed compositions. Specifically, Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out that the pharmaceutical compositions are buffered in arginine chloride. Dependent claim 16 recites a particular exemplary arginine chloride concentration of 300 mmol/l. The amended claims are nonobvious in view of the prior art which does not teach or suggest the claimed compositions buffered in arginine chloride either generally, or at a specific concentration.

Applicants' amendments are believed to obviate the rejection and place the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants note that the amendments to the claims are not in

acquiescence to the rejection, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims of similar or differing scope. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

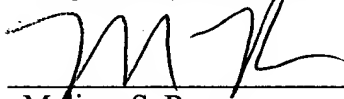
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. CIBT-P01-097.**

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Respectfully Submitted,



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